

ABSTRACT:

The Washington State System of Care Project will expand systems of care (SOC) statewide. We will develop a consistent approach across local and state child/ family service delivery systems to support SOC's, with an emphasis on developing an infrastructure for state-level funding, policy and practice changes.

This approach will begin with the development of a Family/Youth Roundtable to ensure activities are family-driven and youth-guided. Expansion will occur across Washington's 39 counties and 29 federally recognized Tribes (13 counties and 4 Tribes already have SOC pilots and demonstrations). The SOC expansion will focus primarily on youth (ages 13 through 18) with SED, out-of-home placement, and/or juvenile justice / child welfare histories (2.8% of the youth in Washington and 5% of DSHS-served youth).

The project will extend to reach youth with co-occurring disorders, younger children in need and youth at-risk. Over 40% of these children are children of color, with over-representation among African American and American Indian children. The need is framed by the three core premises of the project: (1) We need to develop Systems of Care as the foundation for health-homes for children with SED served across multiple systems; (2) We need to rebalance "deep-end" resources; and, (3) We need to take wraparound, based on the National Wraparound Initiative (NWI), to scale with statewide expansion of SOC.

Our goals are to:

- (1) Develop common definitions and a clear cross-agency strategic plan for System of Care and wraparound implementation in Washington;
- (2) Strategize at high levels to encourage blending of funds within existing authorities, so resources can be more flexible at the local levels;
- (3) Create a state training program that reflects all levels and practice models of SOC and wraparound implementation and that has the ,with capacity to train and support individuals who can function in key roles at all these levels, inclusive of families and youth; and,
- (4) Foster a statewide understanding of the value of family and youth peer-to-peer support partners, as well as family and youth advocacy organizations, and better support their work.

The core system objective will be to redesign statewide structures and contracts to develop regional care management entities as the current carved-out mental health care plans are integrated with expanded Medicaid health plans. These goals are intertwined with Washington's broader objectives to address trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) more effectively and to achieve the aims of health reform. Executive Sponsors, including DSHS Secretary Dreyfus, her Assistant Secretaries, family and youth representatives, and senior participation from the Health Care Authority, the Department of Health, and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction will drive the process.

The SOC Expansion Team, the Executive Sponsors, and the Family/Youth Roundtable will coordinate and implement activities through four work groups (Governance, Policy, Finance, Practice), using a variety of expert resources funded under the grant, including the University of Washington Evidence-Based Practice Institute and DSHS Research and Data Analysis predictive modeling.